

**Acts of Synod held on Wednesday, 21 March 2024
at 7.00pm at Christ the King, Beaumont Leys**

<u>Present:</u>	House of Bishops	2
	House of Clergy	29
	House of Laity	22
<u>Apologies:</u>		43
<u>In attendance:</u>	Officers and Speakers	9

Chair: Steve Bailey, Chair of the House of Clergy, was in the chair for the meeting.

The opening worship was led by the Net Zero Carbon Steering Group.

1. Presidential Address

Bishop Martyn said that he had come to the meeting straight from the conference of the Anglican Network of Intercultural Churches being held in St Martins House that week and that the day had included the launch of his book about intercultural ministry. He explained that we have simply been working with a model of assimilation all this time, saying that people are welcome to come to our churches as long as they leave their own culture at the door and be like us. The strong middle-class white culture has dominated the C of E for many years and we have not taken into account how difficult this is for anyone of any culture that is different to our own. Therefore, we need to think and reflect on how people of different cultures interact.

Bishop Martyn then reflected on the Impact Investment Fund set up the Church Commissioners as a response to the discovery that some of its funds have been generated through transatlantic slavery. The impact fund is a thoughtful and appropriate way to address this by thinking carefully about how we repair the wrongs of the past, so we can use it for projects around the country and the world to enable the healing and repair to begin.

In closing Bishop Martyn reflected on the installation service for Karen Rooms as Dean of Leicester and the way in which this service had been a joyful example of what intercultural church looks like.

2. Racial Equity

Bishop Saju welcomed Ivan Browne, former Director of Public Health for Leicester, who joined the Synod via Zoom from Antigua. In conversation they reflected on the importance of a clear Racial Equity policy, on the uniqueness of Leicester's multi-cultural make up, on the importance on theology in racial equity and on the importance of each individual taking responsibility for improving things.

The Synod then discussed the Racial Equity Strategy in small groups and this was followed by a time of questions and discussion. Bishop Martyn left Synod members with the challenge of who they would be approaching about potentially joining Diocesan Synod in the upcoming elections.

3. Carbon Net Zero

Jonathan Kerry explained the seriousness of the climate crisis now facing us. Andrew Quigley then said that the Church has decided to take this challenge on nationally and that all Church of England buildings are included in this. Finance is a challenge but there are also technical challenges. There are a number of resources available on the website including fact sheets and videos, and also the energy footprint tool. He added that a good way to start is with faith and worship, linking with others and looking at church demographics.

Anne Scott then set out the importance of completing the carbon footprint tool, noting that 20% of our churches make up half of our carbon footprint. It is really important to have data in order to be able to access funding. She shared the good news that the diocese has now been awarded the bronze Eco-church award status so we are heading in the right direction.

There was then discussion in small groups with feedback collected on feedback forms.

Following this, Synod approved the following resolutions with one vote against and two abstentions:

This Synod:

- Reaffirms its commitment to reduce carbon emissions, in support of the national church aim for net-zero by 2030, working within the scope definition agreed by the national church;
- Welcomes the availability of national church funding to support that commitment;
- Notes the draft Net Zero Carbon Action Plan and, recognising the many other challenges and commitments that we all face along with the constraints of available time, expertise, human capacity and finance, resolves to enact as much of the Plan as is possible;
- Asks that progress reports are brought to the Synod on at least an annual basis.

4. Governance Review: Standing Orders

Andy Brockbank presented the Standing Orders reflecting the new governance structure which will come into effect from 1 August 2024. He said that the standing orders had previously been seen by the Synod and were now presented for

approval. The Synod unanimously approved the Standing Orders to come into force on 1 August.

5. Strategy Update

Barry Hill presented the strategy update and answered questions about the independent reviewer and how their views are being taken into account, and also about how learning from other dioceses is being made use of.

6. General Synod report

Chris Johnson presented the General Synod report and responded to questions about the process for dioceses raising General Synod motions, clergy pension contributions and Living in Love and Faith.

7. Written Questions and Answers

No written questions had been received.

Bishop Martyn led the closing prayer.